

Application No. 10/766,939  
Reply to Office Action dated October 18, 2005

Attorney Docket No. FS-F03228-01

### REMARKS

By the present Amendment, Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. It is submitted that the claim amendments present no new matter.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Okada. Claims 8, 14, 25-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Okada in further view of Toya.

In the Okada patent, examples of silver iodide are disclosed as types of silver halide that can be used, there is disclosure of concrete examples of compounds represented by general formula (I), among which there are compounds corresponding to the adsorbable reducing agent represented by Formula (I) of the present application, and there is disclosure of a light exposure time of 10 to 90 seconds. However, these descriptions are only general descriptions and are described independently from each other. If these were arbitrarily combined at the present time, they would correspond to the conditions of present claim 1, but there is no concrete disclosure regarding a combination of these three features in the Okada patent. In other words, a concrete combination would be the combination of a silver iodobromide (with an average silver iodide content of 2 mol%) disclosed in the Examples, several concrete examples of Formula (I), and a light exposure time of 15 seconds.

Thus, it cannot be said that it would be easy, even for a person skilled in the art, to predict that raw storability (suppression of sensitivity reduction in an unexposed photosensitive material during storage) would be remarkably improved by the combination in the aforementioned amended claim 1.

In order to reinforce these arguments, Applicant is submitting herewith a declaration under 37 CFR 1.132. As is clear from the results shown in Table A of the declaration, it is understood that, compared with an image forming method in which light exposure is carried out for 15 seconds with respect to a photosensitive material using a silver iodobromide emulsion having a silver iodide content of 2 mol% together with a compound disclosed in the Okada patent, sensitivity reduction in an unexposed

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photosensitive material during storage is more remarkably suppressed, to an unexpected degree, in the image forming method of the present invention in which light exposure is carried out for 12 seconds with respect to a photosensitive material using a silver halide emulsion having a silver iodide content of 40 mol% or higher together with the adsorbable reducing agent represented by limited Formula (I) of the present application. In other words, by comparing samples 5a to 8a with samples 5b to 8b, comparing samples 5c to 8c with samples 5d to 8d, comparing samples 5e to 8e with samples 5f to 8f, comparing samples 5g to 8g with samples 5h to 8h and samples 5i to 8i, and by comparing the thermal development time of 15 seconds with that of 12 seconds, it is understood that the image forming method of the present invention in which light exposure is carried out for 12 seconds with respect to a photosensitive material using a silver halide emulsion having a silver iodide content of 40 mol% or higher together with the adsorbable reducing agent represented by limited Formula (I) of the present application is remarkably superior in raw storability, to an unexpected degree.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Ohzeki. In response to this rejection, Applicant is submitting a certified translation of the relevant Japanese priority document. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims currently pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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